



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/779,973	02/09/2001	Rodney D. Miller	7099.1579	8174
826	7590	01/27/2006	EXAMINER	
ALSTON & BIRD LLP BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA 101 SOUTH TRYON STREET, SUITE 4000 CHARLOTTE, NC 28280-4000			GRAHAM, CLEMENT B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3628	

DATE MAILED: 01/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/779,973

Applicant(s)

MILLER ET AL.

Examiner

Clement B. Graham

Art Unit

3628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1 Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

1. Claims 1-31 remained pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-30, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chang Walker U.S Pub: 2002/0095366A1).

As per claims 1-3, Walker discloses a system for auctioning consumer demand to suppliers comprising:

a request adapter for receiving a first data set in a first protocol, converting the first data set to a second data set in a second intermediate protocol and then, converting the second data set to a third data set in a third protocol (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053)

a request preprocessor for receiving the third data set from the request adapter and filtering the third data set (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053)

a virtual group processor for receiving the third data set, which has been filtered by the request preprocessor and un-rejected, and creating at least one group, including the third data set and other data sets in the third protocol; and

a dynamic packaging orchestrator and continuous shopping engine (DPOICSE) for managing the at least one group, shopping for bids on at least one product represented in the at least one group, and booking the at least one product based on the received bids(see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053)

As per claim 4, Walker discloses wherein the request preprocessor filters the third data set based on a set of elimination rules that eliminate or accept the travel request, based on a consumer's flexibility and the travel request availability. (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053)

As per claim 5, Walker discloses wherein if the third data set does not meet the elimination rules it is rejected. (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053)

As per claim 6, Walker discloses wherein the virtual group processor creates the at least one group or processes the third data set individually. (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053)

As per claim 7, Walker discloses wherein the DPO/CSE manages the at least one group by applying flexibility rules. (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053)

As per claim 8, Walker discloses wherein if the at least one group represents a plurality of products, the DPO/CSE manages the at least one group by disassembling the plurality of products and re-assembling the plurality of products into one or more combinations of products before shopping for bids. (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053)

As per claim 9, Walker discloses wherein the DPO/CSE shops for bids on the one or more combinations of products by submitting bid requests to suppliers and receiving one or more bids for the one or more combination of products. (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053)

As per claim 10 Walker discloses wherein the suppliers submit the one or more bids to the DPO/CSE manually or automatically through proxy agents, based on proxy trading rules. (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053).

As per claim 11, Walker discloses wherein the DPO/CSE books the one or more combination of products based on event and availability information. (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053).

As per claims 12-14, Walker discloses a travel information system for auctioning consumer demand to suppliers comprising:
a request adapter for receiving a PNR from a distribution system and converting the PNR to a travel request (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053) a request preprocessor for receiving the travel request from the request adapter and filtering the travel request, based on a set of elimination rules. (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053) a virtual group processor for receiving travel requests, filtered by the request preprocessor and un-rejected, and creating at least one group, including the travel requests and other travel requests; and
a dynamic packaging orchestrator and continuous shopping engine (DPO/CSE) for managing the at least one group, shopping for bids on at least one product represented in the at least

one group, and using events and availability information to obtain the at least one product represented, and booking the at least one product. (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053).

As per claim 15, Walker discloses wherein the virtual group processor creates the at least one group or processes the travel request individually. (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053).

As per claim 16, Walker discloses wherein if the at least one group represents a plurality of products, the DPO/CSE manages the at least one group by organizing the plurality of products into one or more combinations of products before shopping for bids. (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053)

As per claim 17, Walker discloses wherein the DPO/CSE shops for bids on the one or more combinations of products by submitting bid requests to suppliers and receiving one or more bids for the one or more combination of products. (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053).

As per claim 18, Walker discloses wherein the suppliers submit the one or more bids to the DPO/CSE manually or automatically through proxy agents, based on proxy trading rules. (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053).

As per claims 19-21, Walker discloses a method for auctioning consumer demand to suppliers in a travel information network comprising the steps of
transferring a PNR from a distribution system to a request adapter for conversion to a travel request;
transferring the travel request from the request adapter to a request preprocessor, filtering the travel requests with the request preprocessor;
transferring the filtered travel requests that are un-rejected to a virtual group processor;
forming at least one group, including the travel requests and other travel requests with the virtual group processor(see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053)
, and transferring the at least one group from the virtual group processor to a dynamic packaging orchestrator and continuous shopping engine (DPOICSE) that:
manages the at least one group (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053)

Art Unit: 3628

shops for bids on at least one product represented in the at least one group, receives bids on the at least one product represented in the at least one group, and books the at least one product based on the received bids. (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053).

As per claim 22, Walker discloses wherein the forming step further includes forming the at least one group or processing the travel request individually. (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053).

As per claim 23, Walker discloses wherein managing the at least one group further includes applying consumer and supplier profile rules to the travel request. (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053).

As per claim 24, Walker discloses wherein managing the at least one group includes disassembling a plurality of products and re-assembling the plurality of products into one or more combinations of products before shopping for bids. (see column 2 lines 58-67 and column 3 lines 1-67).

As per claim 25, Walker discloses wherein receiving the one or more bids at the DPO/CSE further includes receiving bids from suppliers that have submitted the bids manually or automatically through proxy agents, based on proxy trading rules. (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053)

As per claim 26, Walker discloses wherein the step of booking the travel request includes acquiring the one or more combination of products based on event and availability information received by the DPO/CSE. (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053).

As per claims 27-29, Walker discloses a method for booking a travel request comprising: receiving the travel request;
continuously shopping the travel request at a distribution system;
reevaluating a price offered at the distribution system to fulfill the travel request, and booking the travel request at the distribution system if it is determined that an appropriate price is offered at the distribution system. (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053).

As per claim 30, Walker discloses a dynamic packaging orchestrator and continuous shopping engine (DPO/CSE) comprising:
a dynamic packaging management module for dividing one or more grouped travel

Art Unit: 3628

requests into a plurality of individual requests represented in the one or more grouped requests and creating additional requests based on flexibility rules(see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053) a dynamic connection constructor module for receiving the one or more grouped requests and generating a list of alternate requests, based on a consumer's flexibility, and submitting the alternate requests to the dynamic packaging management module; and a bid management module for (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053) receiving the plurality of individual requests, the additional requests, and the alternate requests from the dynamic packaging management module, offering the plurality of individual requests, the additional request, and the alternate requests for bidding (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053)receiving bids on the plurality of individual requests, the additional requests, and the alternate requests and determining whether one or more of the bids are acceptable, and booking one or more of the bids that were acceptable with a distribution system. (see column 2-5 paragraph 0015-0053)

3. Claim 31, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Henley U.S Patent 2020065758).

As per claim 31, Henley discloses a method for providing item requests comprising: receiving requests for items from at least one of a plurality of sources; processing the requests for items received in a standard format or converting the request for items received in other formats to a standard format (see column 2 lines 58-67 and column 3 lines 1-67 and column 6 lines 20-67 and column 7-8 lines 1-67) eliminating the request for items that fail to meet a predetermined criteria; reorganizing the request for items into groups having the same or similar items; offering the groups for bid to prospective suppliers (see column 2 lines 58-67 and column 3 lines 1-67 and column 6 lines 20-67 and column 7-8 lines 1-67) receiving a bid from at least one of the prospective suppliers that fulfill an item within one of the grouped request for items and repeatedly shopping the travel request at distribution system in pre determined time intervals until the request is satisfied.(see column 4 paragraph 0063-0065 and column 5-7 paragraph 0066-098).

Conclusion

4.

Response to arguments

Art Unit: 3628

5. Applicant's arguments filed 11/14/2005 has been fully considered but they are moot in view of new grounds of rejections.

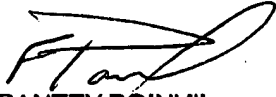
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clement B Graham whose telephone number is 703-305-1874. The examiner can normally be reached on 7am to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hyung S. Sough can be reached on 703-308-0505. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-0040 for regular communications and 703-305-0040 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

CG

January 21, 2006


FRANTZY POINVIL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
A43628